

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph the paragraph on page 15 at (ii) with the following amended paragraph:

--(ii) ~~Taqman~~ TAQMAN[®] hybridization probes

A single-stranded hybridization probe is labeled with two components. When the first component is excited with light of a suitable wavelength, the absorbed energy is transferred to the second component, the so-called quencher, according to the principle of fluorescence resonance energy transfer. During the annealing step of the PCR reaction, the hybridization probe binds to the target DNA and is degraded by the 5'-3' exonuclease activity of the Taq polymerase during the subsequent elongation phase. As a result the excited fluorescent component and the quencher are spatially separated from one another and thus a fluorescence emission of the first component can be measured.--